

Allegheny Township, Westmoreland County
Board of Supervisors Meeting
136 Community Building Road
Leechburg, PA 15656

Minutes November 13, 2023

Michael Korn, Chair

Ren Steele, Vice Chair

James Morabito, Supervisor

Meeting No. 11 of 2023

Jason Dailey, Interim Township Manager

Roger Schwarz

Dan Uncapher, Police Department

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Korn at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Good of the Order

Chairman Korn commended the Kiski Marching Band on their accomplishments this year.

Minutes of Meeting October 9, 2023

Motion by Supervisor Steele to Approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting for October 9, 2023; seconded by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Police Department/Public Safety

Police Report for October 2023 given by Sgt Uncapher and is on file.

Fire Department Report

Fire Department Reports were not read and are on file. Matt Johnston announced there will be a comedy night fundraiser that is on the company's facebook page.

Lower Kiski EMS

Lower Kiski EMS report for October 2023 was not read but is on file.

Public Works Department

Public Works Report for October 2023 given by Roger Schwarz and is on file.

Zoning Report

A codes compliance report was included but not read and is on file.

Correspondence

The Board was provided with the minutes of the MAAT.

A letter of appreciation was provided to the Board for the good work of the Public Works Department on Frederick Drive.

Public Relations and Announcements

Supervisor Korn provided an update on the Light the Season event to be held on 11/17/23

Public Comment for Agenda Items Only

1. Mr. Framel addressed an editorial on the financial condition of the EMS and encouraged Board support.
2. Maruska Steele expressed her support for the current 5 minute time for public comment.
3. Kathy Starr requested former Chief Fisher be left free of continued harassment.
4. Lou Bertha expressed his support for the current 5 minute time for public comment.
5. Lean Newell expressed her support for the current 5 minute time for public comment and support for officers keeping their vests issued.
6. Patrick Leyland expressed his support for the current 5 minutes time for public comment and concern for the costs associated with the new police structure.
7. Joe Ferguson expressed his not supporting the proposed new structure for the Police Department due to the Township's current financial condition.
8. Joe Framel expressed his support for the current 5 minute time for public comment.
9. Tom Eisman expressed his support for the current 5 minute time for public comment.

Department Reports

Motion made by Supervisor Morabito to approve the Department Reports for the month of October 2023; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Supervisor Steele to approve the Financial Reports for the month of October 2023; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Action Items

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to ratify the hiring of Chris Martin as Office Administrator effective 11/6/23; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to appoint Dan Uncapher to the position of Police Chief approving the agreed upon Employment Agreement with an expiration of May 31, 2027; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

All three Supervisors expressed their strong support for past work and character of Dan Uncapher and wished him well as Chief.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to adopt the new two Sergeant and single Corporal structure and to authorize the interviewing for a School Resource Officer; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Supervisor Korn expressed his support of this structure with a caution that the Township's finances are a very real concern moving forward.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to request the return of the custom fitted vest issued to former Chief Fisher; second by Supervisor Steele; motion failed 2-1 with Korn and Steel dissenting.

Supervisor Steele expressed his not favoring this action. Supervisor Morabito cited a Police Policy 3.3.8 Sec C.4. requiring officers to return vests after separation and also a discussion he had with

another vendor that is contrary to the vendor of the vests statements about the usefulness of returned vests for future officers. Supervisor Korns discussed the policy not being followed previously, the vest not being listed on the items to be returned that was developed, and the Township's lack of ability to demand and actually receive the vest.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to purchase a 2023 Police Cruiser under a 3 year lease agreement with payments through 2026 to be delivered in 2024 at a cost of \$40,680 with an upfit cost of \$17,000; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to approve the Management Agreement with the Municipal Authority of Allegheny Township; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Supervisor Korns discussed the agreement is for 10 years.

Motion by Supervisor Steele to approve the Lease Agreement with the Municipal Authority of Allegheny Township; second by Supervisor Morabito; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to approve Resolution R-16-23 to accept financial donations for the Toys for Kiski Area Kids (CAVS); second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to approve the Small Games of Chance license of Markle Fire Co by Allegheny Township; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Motion by Supervisor Morabito to reduce the public comment period to three minutes; second by Supervisor Steele; motion failed 2-1 with Supervisors Steele and Korns dissenting.

Supervisor Steele expressed his strong dissatisfaction with the limit. Supervisor Morabito cited numerous local municipalities that have 2-3 minute time limits and that the Office of Open Records recommends 3 minute time limits. Supervisor Korns countered that the Office of Open Records recommends no less than 3 minute time limits and expressed his support for free speech.

Citizens Comments

1. Terrence George reported police misconduct during a health event he experienced.
2. Joe Ferguson discussed the Conditional Use procedure not paid for by the applicant for the Wooden Door Winery, no site plan being submitted, and election expense reports not accurate. He further discussed financial discrepancies of the Community Days event as reported.
3. Frank Arrabia expressed his support for Supervisor Morabito and future Supervisor Pollick. He also discussed alleged transgressions of prior Board members.
4. Tom Eisman countered Mr. Arrabia as a former Board member.
5. Jeff Pollick addressed Mr. Ferguson's allegations with the explanation that no bill had been received and that election expenses were handled by himself personally.
6. Lou Bertha requested transparency of finances for grants and expressed concern of the spending and lack of revenue.

7. Patrick Leyland expressed his support for the 5 minute time limit and that Allegheny Township is one of the only communities that allows such a liberal opportunity for expression.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Steele expressed his displeasure with comments about Board members taking kickbacks. He also thanked the public and Board for his ability to serve as a Board member.

Supervisor Morabito congratulated Mr. Pollick on the election. He refuted the claims of Mr. Ferguson. He expressed his ability to have an unapologetic opinion to Mr. Eisman. He agreed with Mr. Bertha that finances need to be more transparent and requested a meeting be setup with Mr. Dailey.

Supervisor Kornis stated he will continue to support free speech and not challenge speakers. He agreed that the finances are in bad shape and that he requested the Audit and provided time for one on one discussion with the Auditor for a resident. He described the Conditional Use Permit process that requires applicants to pay fees regardless of whether their applications are approved. He concluded with an accolade for Mable Mazza and her diligence to attend meetings.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business or comments, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:07 pm by Supervisor Morabito; second by Supervisor Steele; motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jason Dailey
Interim Township Manager

Michael Kornis
Chairman, Board of Supervisors